

BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



A N N U A L R E P O R T

ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA

FOR THE YEAR 1961

REPORT PRESENTED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Annual Report on the Health of the Area for the year 1961

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BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1961

p r e f a c e

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report on the Health of the District during 1961.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar General's estimate for mid-1961 amounted to 10,410 persons. This figure approaches the preliminary Census figure of April that year amounting to 10,679 persons. The final Census Report is still awaited.

Births and Deaths

The Standardised Birth Rate showed a small increase to 14.03 per 1,000 population, but is still below the National average of 17.4. On the other hand the Standardised Death Rate at 11.03 approached the National average of 12.0 per 1,000 population.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

A small outbreak of Measles was notified early in the year.

GENERAL HEALTH

Water Supply

A proposal to develop land adjacent to the Laywell Spring source of water was dealt with at a Public Inquiry in November, 1961.

Drainage

Progress was made with various schemes to relieve flooding arising from overloaded sewers and storm water drains, but a proposal for stopping any foul sewage at all from reaching the outer harbour from properties mainly in Fore Street was impracticable owing to the high cost involved. Proposals were also laid before the Council to pump foul sewage from the public toilets

at Breakwater Beach into the main sewer in Berry Head Road, to stop it discharging into the sea off Breakwater Beach.

Health Education

During the year Members of the Council accompanied by the Medical Officer of Health attended a Sessional Meeting of the Royal Society of Health in Exeter. The future of Public Health, and Employment for the Handicapped, including morally and socially handicapped persons was discussed. Visits were also made to a hospital, an old peoples' home, and to a modern waterworks.

Riparian Health

In November, 1961, the Public Health Committee was informed of difficulty in finding time to carry out routine inspections of ships entering the Harbour Limits. The Ministry of Health had already written commenting upon the absence of shipping inspections during the previous two years. During 1961 five inspections were done.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary during 1961.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Members of the Council as well as my colleagues on the staff for their assistance during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN
Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1962.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John H. WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Lond).

Local Office

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Brixham. Telephone: Brixham 2206 Extn. 5

Central Office - Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices, Oldway, Paignton.

Telephone: OFFICE Paignton 82214
Home Brixham 3113

Medical Officer's Clerk: Mrs. S. Beaumont, Public Health Dept.,
Municipal Offices, Oldway, Paignton. Telephone: 82214 Extn. 59.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

M. DURHAM-WATSON, Inspector of Meat and Foods
Housing Manager
Inspector under the Petroleum & Explosive Acts
Inspector under the Shops and Factory Acts
Inspector for the Riparian Health Area of Brixham

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Brixham. Telephone: Brixham 2206 Extn. 5

Clerk (part-time) to the Public Health Inspector: Mrs. S. Michelmores

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the session 1961/62 was Councillor W.S. Dart, also on the Committee were Councillors Mrs. A.M. Park, J.P., Mrs. E.A. Grieg, Miss M. Davies, F.C. Wakeford, H.E. Filmer, C.M. Ashford.

S E C T I O N A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1961

TABLE 1

(Figures for 1960 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Brixham Urban District

10,410 (9,960)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	...	+ 17	(- 23)
Migration in or out	...	...	...	+ 433	(+ 373)
Total Increase or Decrease	...	...	...	+ 450	(+ 350)

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area in Acres 5,626

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books (31st March)

3,771 (3,553)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	...	0.6
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	...	1.8
Number of Persons per house	...	...	...	2.7

Rateable Value of District (31st December, 1961)

£162,407 (£153,394)

Estimated Penny Rate Product 1961/62

£620 (£590)

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1961

TABLE 2

(Figures for 1960 are shown in brackets)

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 14.03 (13.57)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... 1.00 (1.04)

Number of Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	88	58	146
Legitimate	83	56	139
Illegitimate	5	2	7

Number of Still Births 4 0 4

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population 11.03 (12.90)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... 0.89 (0.84)

Number of Deaths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Ages - Total</u>	68	61	129
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.</u>	3	1	4
Number under 4 weeks of age	3	0	3
Number under 1 week of age	3	0	3

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births 27.4 (15.4)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BIRTH RATE: 17.4 (17.1)

DEATH RATE: 12.0 (11.5)

Infantile Mortality Rate 21.4 (21.7)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1961

TABLE 1

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Age Group in Years</u>					
		<u>Under</u> 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	<u>Over</u> 65
Whooping Cough	5	0	2	3	0	0	0
Measles	234	3	106	125	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

TABLE 2

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Incidence by Quarters</u>			
		<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>
Whooping Cough	5	3	2	0	0
Measles	234	196	38	0	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	0	1	0	0

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

During the year 71 certificates of Smallpox and Cholera vaccination in respect of persons travelling abroad were authenticated by the Public Health Department.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1961

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
	ALL CAUSES	68	61	129
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	1	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic disease	2	0	2
10	Malignant neoplasms, stomach ...	2	0	2
11	" " lungs, bronchus	1	1	2
12	" " breast ...	0	2	2
13	" " uterus ...	0	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	8	13
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	1	1
16	Diabetes	1	1	2
17	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	9	7	16
18	Coronary disease, angina	13	12	25
19	Hypertension with heart disease ...	0	2	2
20	Other heart disease	7	8	15
21	Other circulatory disease	8	4	12
22	Influenza	1	1	2
23	Pneumonia	4	1	5
24	Bronchitis	3	3	6
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	0	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	1	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	7	16
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34	All other accidents	0	0	0
35	Suicide	1	0	1
36	Homicide and operations of war ...	0	0	0
(a)	Still Births	4	0	4
(b)	Deaths of infants under one week of age	3	0	3
(c)	" " " one week to four weeks of age	0	0	0
(d)	" " " four weeks to one year of age	0	1	1

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR BRIXHAM

LABORATORY SERVICE

Laboratory facilities for the bacteriological examination of pathological specimens, samples of milk, water, ice cream and shell fish, are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service, at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter. (Telephone: Exeter 54959).

In emergency, certain (medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

The chemical analysis of water and other samples is undertaken by Dr. Cedric V. Reynolds, Public Analyst, 1 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter. (Exeter 72836).

COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

The following are some of the County Council Services, provided in accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. Davids Hill, Exeter.

Home and Domestic Help

This Service aims to provide essential domestic help in cases of maternity, sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity, or in any emergency in a household due to illness. The service is not free, but householders, if unable to pay the full charges, are assessed according to their means.

The Home Help Organiser for the District is Mrs. M.R. Powell, Women's Voluntary Service, The Scala Hall, Market Street, Brixham (Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) Telephone Churston 81423.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centre

There are three Nurses and one Health Visitor. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Clinic, Greenswood Road, Brixham, on Tuesday afternoons. (Telephone: Brixham 3374).

Ambulance Service

The Service is under the general direction of the County Medical Officer, but the local administration is carried out by the Brixham St. John Ambulance and Nursing Brigade, under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council.

Since the summer of 1961 a Radio Control Centre for the Ambulance Service was opened and doctors requiring an ambulance are advised to telephone this Centre at Torquay 89345. However it is still permissible to telephone the local Ambulance Station at Brixham 3065.

Except in emergency an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officers, Miss O.F. Evans and Mr. W.J. Gliddon, Central Clinic, 14 Midvale Road, Paignton. (Telephone 59131).

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Brixham Hospital has 23 beds, 18 of which are general medical and surgical; and 5 maternity; and is managed by the Torquay Hospital Management Committee. The District is also served by the Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

There are 7 General Medical Practitioners together with 2 Dentists in Practice at Brixham.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

Splendid work on behalf of old people is carried out in Brixham. One of the Organisations concerned is the Brixham Old People's Welfare Committee which includes Friendly Visiting, A Good Companions Club, a Chiropody Service (assisted by a grant from the Devon County Council), and a Meels-on-Wheels Service amongst its activities. This latter service commenced in May, 1961, and now delivers meals on five days a week. Supplemented by County and Local grants, a two-course meal is provided at a cost of one and sixpence to the recipients. The meals are cooked at a local cafe, and delivered by volunteers.

Laywell Old People's Home caters for residents of both sexes, 27 in all. It is owned and managed by Brixham Old People's Housing Association Ltd. Any resident unable to meet the whole cost of his upkeep there may apply for financial assistance from the Devon County Council Welfare Department.

The "Home from Home" atmosphere at Laywell is enhanced by its siting, character and amenities.

MORTUARY

There is a Public Mortuary adjoining the Ambulance Station in Bolton Street.

S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer, Surveyor and Water Engineer, Mr. P. Thompson, A.M.I.Mun.E, for the following information concerning Water, Drainage, Sewerage and Refuse Disposal.

WATER SUPPLY

PUBLIC Source of Supply

A bulk supply of Moorland Water is obtained from Paignton Urban District Council, and this is augmented from the Laywell Spring situated in Higher Brixham.

There are three service reservoirs, at Hillhead (525,000 gallons), Alston (1,000,000 gallons), and Laywell (326,000 gallons). The Laywell reservoir supplies the low level area of the town and Hillhead and Alston reservoirs the higher parts of the town.

Quantity

During 1961 the supply was satisfactory. The following table summarises the situation in 1961 and 1960:-

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
Rainfall (inches)	37.54 inches	58.24 inches
<u>Purchase of Water from P.U.D.C.</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
(Hillhead & Alston Reservoirs)	137,478,000	110,842,000
<u>Laywell Spring and Reservoir</u>		
(a) Reservoir supply to low level area of town	44,559,000	37,658,000
(b) Pumping of surplus water to higher level system	39,330,000	53,928,000
<u>Total Water Consumption</u>	223,779,000	203,313,000

During 1961 the highest average yield from the Laywell Spring was over 500,000 gallons daily in January. The lowest daily yield was 141,000 gallons during August.

Quality

All the water requires treatment before issue for supply. The water from Paignton Urban District Council has already been filtered and chlorinated before delivery at Brixham, and raw water from the Laywell Spring is chlorinated at the Laywell Reservoir.

Bacteriological water samples were collected from the public mains supply each month, and the results showed that B. coli were absent in 100 ml. in each sample.

No samples for chemical analysis were taken during 1961.

Laywell Spring

During 1961 application by a builder to develop a housing estate and construct roads on land immediately adjacent to Laywell Spring was rejected on the grounds that such development would jeopardize the purity of water at the Spring which is one of the main sources of water in Brixham. The applicant appealed against this decision and a Public Inquiry was held in November; and at the end of the year the Minister's decision was still awaited.

PRIVATE Sources of Supply

There are nearly 70 properties served by private sources of supply, mainly in that part of the Urban District situated between Southdown, Hillhead and Kingswear. Plans have been formulated for supplying part of this area with a main water supply.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Refuse Collection system was re-organised on October 30th 1961.

Domestic refuse is collected once weekly, and an unlimited number of bins are emptied free of charge. If an additional collection is required during the week, a charge will be made of sixpence per bin collected. Forms of application are supplied at the Town Hall.

Trade refuse is also collected once weekly, but only one free bin is allowed. All other bins are charged at sixpence per bin emptied. Arrangements can be made for a second collection of trade refuse (no free bin) on receipt of an application form, supplied at the Town Hall.

Prepayment of charges for emptying bins is made by use of "sticker" labels, supplied at the Town Hall.

Sharkham Point Refuse Tip

Controlled tipping of refuse takes place into an old quarry situated on the Northern slope of the point above St. Mary's Bay.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Department

I am pleased to say that a decision was taken in December, 1961, to relieve the Public Health Inspector of drain testing by the appointment of a Drainage and Building Inspector. This will give the Public Health Inspector more time for other public health duties.

The Council was unable to make any improvements during 1961, to the office accommodation which is very cramped.

Drainage Inspections

275 houses and flats were completed during the year and considerable time was given to the supervision of the design and construction of drainage systems.

The tests and inspections carried out are classified as follows:-

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Total number of drainage inspections	759	616	235	162
New drainage tested and found satisfactory	215	227	148	119
Extensions to old drains tested and found satisfactory	36	49	31	38

Disinfection and Disinfestation

11 rooms in 3 houses received treatment against vermin.

The following articles were destroyed by the Council at the request of the owners. No articles were verminous.

Mattresses	105
Eiderdowns	4
Pillows	5

The collection of mattresses etc., was discontinued at the end of October, 1961, but arrangements were made for the public to dispose of such articles at the tip, free of charge, at times permitted.

Holiday Camps

Owing to pressure of work the Annual Survey of the camps and holiday population during July and August, 1961, was not carried out.

All caravan sites have been informed of a new code of conditions under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, which must be complied with before the 1964 season.

Swimming Pool

There is a sea-water swimming pool at Shoalstone. It is owned by the Council.

Holiday Complaints

Sixteen complaints including complaints about holiday accommodation, were satisfactorily dealt with.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

One operator was employed, and worked alternate weeks at Brixham and Dartmouth. This arrangement worked well.

Treatment to private houses is free of charge, but a charge is made for treating business premises.

During the year the Rodent Operator carried out 558 visits in the District. A summary of the work done, based on the Report already submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, is tabulated below:-

	<u>Council Premises</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business Premises</u>	<u>Agricul- tural</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
No. Properties Inspected.	6	146	78	27	257
No. infested with Rats.	0	49	26	0	75
No. infested with Mice.	0	40	35	0	75
No. Properties treated.	0	89	61	0	150

A total of 47 block control schemes was carried out.

The estimated kill is summarised below:-

	<u>Rats</u>			<u>Mice</u>
Harbour Area:	40	Brown	Nil Black	Nil
District Area:	184	Brown	Nil Black	61

Sewers

Just over ten per cent of the sewers were treated. One trace of rats was found.

HOUSING

Inspections

149 houses in the District were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts during 1961.

1 Legal Notice was served.

Overcrowding

1 case of overcrowding was reported and dealt with during the year.

Substandard Housing

Two Closing Orders in accordance with the Housing Act, 1957, were made by the Council in respect of the following properties:-

Top Flat, Mount Kennedy, Parkham Road, Brixham.

The Sparrows Nest, Castor Road, Brixham.

There were no demolitions.

Rent Act, 1957

Although a number of inquiries from tenants and landlords have been dealt with, very little official action has been necessary.

Council Housing - Waiting List

At the end of 1961 the waiting list for accommodation had not increased in size. Half the total number of applicants are between the ages of 60 and 70 years. The greatest demand is for one bedroom accommodation (sixty per cent) and of the remaining forty per cent on the waiting list approximately one quarter require two bedrooms.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The Special Designated Milks on sale in the area are Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised. Sterilised milk is not retailed in Brixham.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, came into force on the 1st January, 1961, when the authority for granting dealers licences passed from the Council to the Devon County Council. This transfer marked the end of the Council's connection with the administration of the milk supply.

Ice Cream

A total of 88 premises is registered for the sale or storage of ice cream, as follows:-

Bakers/Confectioners	...	...	14
Cafes	...	...	15
Camp Cafes/Shops	...	...	7
Beach Huts/Kiosks	...	...	7
Multiple Store	...	...	1
Tea Trailer	...	...	1
Grocers/Greengrocers	...	...	38
Dairy	...	...	1
Club	...	...	1
Hotels	...	...	2
Cinema	...	...	1

Three of the premises listed above are registered for the sale and part-manufacture of ice cream.

Meat and Other Foods

Food surrendered as being unfit for human consumption is listed below. Much of the trouble was due to flooding in January, 1961.

<u>Canned Food</u>		<u>Fresh Food</u>	
Meat	637 lb	Meat	310 lb
Fruit	90 tins		
Fish	2 tins		
Milk	3 tins		
<u>Other Foods</u>			
Sweets	241½	lb	Jellies 48 lb
Biscuits	452¾	lb	Cheese 24 lb
Sugar	440	lb	Beverages 53 lb
Dried Fruit	116	lb	Salt 36 lb
Dried Vegetables	224	lb	Jam 53 lb
Cereals	480	lb	Soups 97 lb

These foodstuffs were disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tip at Sharkham Point.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

A total of sixty-three inspections was made.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The Devon County Council Sampling Officer has supplied the following information about samples taken for analysis during 1961:-

Whisky	Lemon Curd
Fish	Lime Powder
Margarine	Pate of Smoked Crab
Cream Cheese	Soluble Aspirin Tablets
Butter	Ice Cream (3 samples)
Diet Food	Milk (10 samples)
	Devon Butter Assortment

All these samples were reported to be genuine.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTS

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

Number of licences granted to store Petroleum	20
Amount of Petroleum stored	33,660 gallons

EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 & 1923

Licences were granted as follows:-

Storage of Gunpowder, Gelignite and Fuses	1
Sale of Ammunition	2
Sale of Fireworks	14

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two pet shops were licensed under the provisions of the Act, and continued to be operated satisfactorily.

GAME ACT, 1831

Four persons were licensed to deal in Game.

S E C T I O N D

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 TO 1959

URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM

The following is a summary of information in respect of the year 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power:
(Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6)

Number on Register	...	...	5
Inspections	...	...	6
Written Notices	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	0

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power:
(Section 7)

Number on Register	...	...	36
Inspections	...	...	45
Written Notices	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	0

(iii) Other Premises under the Act:
(Section 7)

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworker's Premises).

Number on Register	...	...	14
Inspections	...	...	655
Written Notices	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	0

2. Cases in which defects were found: Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

	Section 110			Section 111	
Nature of Work	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.	4	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4	0	0	0	0

(7) There were no prosecutions.

S E C T I O N E

RIPARIAN HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM, 1961 - (SUMMARISED)

The above Report was submitted to the Ministry of Health in March, 1962.

A total of 1,209 ships with a nett tonnage of 225,474 tons entered the Area, an increase of 386 vessels over the previous year. Four routine inspections, for nuisances were carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, and the Public Health Inspector visited one ship and arranged for a bacteriological test on the drinking water storage tank. The result was satisfactory.

Two cases of illness aboard ship were reported and received treatment from a local General Medical Practitioner.

Arising from a report of suspected smallpox aboard a liner which entered Torbay, off Brixham, to pick up a 'London' pilot, in February, 1961, the crew of the Pilot Cutter were re-vaccinated beforehand. The liner was also boarded by Medical Officers from the Port of London Health Authority.

